

Circ.: m. 117,369  
S. 172,231

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date: APR 13 1961

FOIAb3b

The Arizona Republic

CPYRIGHT

Phoenix, Thurs., April 13, 1961

## Book Review

# Munson Book Tells Why Defense Of Quemoy Is Important To West

CPYRIGHT

Who Will Volunteer? by Lyle H. Munson. The Bookmailer, N.Y. \$2.

By EDWIN McDOWELL

Just off the coast of mainland China, only a machine gun bullet distance away, lies the island of Quemoy. On that 13½-mile square island live some



McDowell

46,000 farmers, fishermen, merchants, teachers, and children, who daily go about their business, almost oblivious to the Communist bombs which fall, with monotonous regularity every

other day.

Perhaps the major chink in the armor of Communist China is Quemoy, and its companion island, Matsu. For while 600 million mainland Chinese are regimented into collectives, chattels in the Red commune system, the 8,724 families on Quemoy enjoy a degree of freedom virtually unprecedented in Asia. And, except for the existence of the Nationalist Chinese government on Formosa, the offshore islands are the chief cause of humiliation to Communist China, much like West Berlin is to Communist East Germany.

"Why Will Volunteer?" represents an effective approach to the Quemoy controversy. For while dozens of books and articles have argued the legal and technical aspects of abandoning the offshore islands to the Chinese Communists, in the hopes that, having cloyed them-

selves on some thousands of people, the Red Chinese suddenly will become peaceable and will take their place in perfect harmony among the community of nations, author Munson has chosen to allow dozens of candid photographs of Quemoy, its people and places, show in human terms just what it would mean if that tiny island were gobbled up by the Communists.

Whether or not Munson, former CIA agent and long time friend of China, had in mind Walker Evans' memorable photographs, which graced James Agee's "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men," his photographs capture the spirit of free Chinese—their sorrows and their joys, their fears and their strengths—as magnificently as Evans' photographs capture the spirit of southern sharecroppers.

Quemoy is valuable to the West for a number of reasons. Not only is it a symbol of freedom for the imprisoned Mainland Chinese, and a source of embarrassment, ridicule, and resistance to the Red regime, but it is an invaluable observation post in the event of any enemy naval attack against Formosa.

In addition, historically, Mun-

son writes, Quemoy is part of Fukien Province on the mainland, and Matsu is part of Sinkiang Province. And this, as Mao Tse-tung realizes, means that free China technically and legally still occupies part of mainland China.

But the author believes there is an even deeper reason for the United States to defend the offshore islands. And that is that they are considered the measure of America's reliability as any ally in the struggle against communism. To the inhabitants, caught up by a crisis in a world they never made, the United States represents the one shield that stands between freedom and slavery, the one thing that has enabled the free Chinese to withstand the almost 900,000 shells which have come whistling into their island outpost from the mainland.

But those shells, even though

they fall on Quemoy, are aimed primarily at the United States.

They are calibrated to intimidate Americans, Munson writes, "to persuade them that the giant Red Chinese nation must be recognized—Formosa, Matsu and Quemoy bartered in exchange for peace and disarmament in Asia. Always, the protagonists of Mao's China speak of 'the reality' of this giant nation with its 600 million people and the staggering war-potential of such a population . . . The fleeing refugees—the letters slipping through the Bamboo Curtain—they will tell you that those 600 million people do not want Mao recognized, or Quemoy bartered, or Formosa abandoned."

And so it goes. While some of our diplomats consider ways to dump Quemoy and Matsu gracefully (as Owen Lattimore said about South Korea, to let it fall "but not to let it look as

though we pushed it"), the free people of that tiny island go about their daily activities with one eye on mainland China and the other on the United States 7th Fleet.

And the question posed by the author is who, among the diplomats and men of influence, eager to trade those 46,000 Chinese into Communist slavery, will volunteer to trade places with them?